

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 ARA-10 /112 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 851

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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UNCLAS WELLINGTON 0436

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NZ, AO, UR

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER MULDOON COMMENTS ON ANGOLA

REF WELLINGTON 0338

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT CONCERNING ANGOLA FROM PM MULDOON'S
FEBRUARY 2 PRESS CONFERENCE:

PRESS: MR. MULDOON THERE'S A PIECE IN THE PAPER THIS
MORNING ABOUT A MAN IN NAPIER ADVERTISING FOR NAMES FOR
MERCENARIES FOR ANGOLA.

MR. MULDOON: OH YES I SAW HIM ON TELEVISION.

PRESS: DOES THE GOVERNMENT HAVE A VIEW ON NEW ZEALAND
MERCENARIES TAKING PART?

MR. MULDOON: WE DIDN'T DISCUSS IT...

PRESS: I WONDERED IF THE GOVERNMENT (INAUDIBLE).

MR. MULDOON: NO WE REALLY HAVEN'T DISCUSSED IT IN
CABINET, AND I LITERALLY HAVE GIVEN NO THOUGHT TO IT. I
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WOULD BE ASTONISHED IF ANYONE APPLIES.

PRESS: HAVE YOU ANY THOUGHTS OF THE WAY THINGS
ARE GOING IN ANGOLA YOURSELF?

MR. MULDOON: NO, WE WOULD TAKE THE VIEW THAT ITS
DISTURBING. BUT WHEN THE AMERICAN SENATORS WERE HERE,
VERY VERY BRIEF, MORE OR LESS SEMI PRIVATE COMMENTS,
WE TOOK THE VIEW THAT WE ARE NOT STRATEGICALLY INTERESTED
IN AFRICA -- AS FAR AS ANGOLA IS CONCERNED. BUT WE
NOTE WITH INTEREST WHAT IS A DIRECT EXERCISE OF AN
IMPERIALISTIC ATTITUDE OF THE RUSSIANS, A MOST EXTRA-
ORDINARY SITUATION WHERE THEY ARE USING CUBAN TROOPS.
NOW THAT'S AS FAR AS OUR INTEREST GOES. PERHAPS THE
INTERESTING THING TO US IS THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF
INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES ARE TAKING A SIMILAR ATTITUDE
-- THAT THEY ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE DIRECT INTER-
VENTION BY THE RUSSIANS IN THIS MANNER, AND IT HAS
CERTAINLY SPLIT BLACK AFRICA, THERE'S NO SHADOW OF DOUBT
ABOUT THAT, THEY SPLIT EQUALLY OF COURSE AT THE OAU.
END EXCERPT.
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